An ordinary telephone communication circuit is provided in addition to the emergency informing circuit in an emergency informing apparatus. In the non-emergency condition, ordinary telephone communication is provided through a wireless communication network. In the emergency condition, the emergency data is transmitted to a predetermined station through the wireless communication network. An interface for transmitting and receiving data is further provided. A data converter for converting data may be provided as a data communication adapter. An automatic dialing circuit may be provided. An emergency informing system including the emergency informing apparatus, the wireless network, and a terminal of a predetermined station for receiving the emergency data from the emergency informing apparatus is also disclosed.

Remarks

The following is a response to the Office Action dated August 15, 2002.

In the Office Action, the examiner has rejected pending claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tognazzini U.S. patent 5,914,675.

As amended, independent claims 1, 9, 17 and 23 each recite that the emergency informing apparatus/system is mounted and is part of the vehicle, and is configured to make a conventional telephone call without disconnecting the position detecting means (unit) and/or the data generating means (unit).

That is, in the present invention, when a motor accident or a sudden illness occurs while the driver is making an ordinary communication by the ordinary communication means, the control means disconnects the driver's ordinary communication thereby so as to operate the emergency communication means. The operated emergency communication means causes the emergency data to be

transmitted to the called party, thereby making it possible to effect the process of transmitting the emergency data to the called party even while the driver is making an ordinary communication.

On the contrary, as best shown in Fig. 1, Tognazzini discloses an emergency locator device 10 that is implemented as a portable unit suitable for handheld use. (Column 4, lines 3-7; line 21) Emergency locator device 10 is connected to a vehicle status monitoring system 52. To use emergency locator device 10 as a telephone, device 10 is detached from vehicle status monitoring system 52 (or vehicle status register), as well as GPS receiver 16. (Column 6, line 66 to column 7, line 8)

Thus, in Tognazzini, in order to make an ordinary telephone communication by using the emergency locator device, it must be necessary to separate it from the GPS receiver 16 and the vehicle status registers 52. And if a motor accident or sudden illness occurs when the emergency locator device is separated from the GPS receiver 16 and the vehicle status registers 52, it is impossible to have the separated emergency locator device to begin a process of transmitting the emergency data to the called party.

Therefore, amended claims 1, 9, 17 and 23 each are clearly distinguishable from Tognazzini.

In addition, in Tognazzini, in order to execute the emergency data transmission process, in cases where the emergency locator device is connected to the GPS receiver 16 and the vehicle status registers 52, it is impossible to perform an ordinary telephone communication by the emergency locator device.

On the contrary, in the present invention, it is possible to execute the ordinary telephone communication process and the emergency data transmission process without connecting or disconnecting the position detecting means and/or the data generating means.

Newly added claim 24 sets forth the feature of the instant invention that while a conventional call is being made using the emergency locator device, the controller of the device would disconnect the conventional call and automatically connect to an emergency station when an emergency is detected.

Tognazzini does not disclose or suggest such feature.

Claims 2-8, 10-16, 18-22 and 25-26 are dependent on claims 1, 9, 17 and 24, respectively.

In view of the above, as all of the claims of the present invention are believed to be clearly distinguishable from Tognazzini, the examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and pass this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: NOV 14 2002

VERSION TO SHOW MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Attachment Specification Portions Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.121(b)(1)(iii)

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 9, paragraph defined by lines 10-19:

Further, the control circuit 12 receives a communication request from the communication control circuit 11. That is, the communication control circuit 11 receives a call from a calling party through a wireless communication network, and the antenna 2. When the link has been established, the control circuit 12 operates the communication control circuit 11 and the hands-free communication circuit 17 to provide voice communication with the speaker 6 and the microphone 7 when the control circuit 12 does not [detects] detect the emergency condition.

Page 10, paragraph defined by lines 9-15:

The control circuit 12 operates the communication control circuit 11, the position detection circuit and the memory 15 to provide the emergency communication portion in response to the emergency switch 3 and operates the communication control circuit 11, the hands-free circuit 17 and [th] the operation circuit 5 to [provides] provide an ordinary (non-emergency) communication portion.

Attachment Claims Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(1)(ii)

Please amend claims 1, 9, 17 and 23 as follows:

1. (Amended) An emergency informing apparatus for a vehicle comprising:

position detecting means for detecting a position of said emergency informing apparatus in response to a command signal;

data generation means including storing means for generating emergency data including at least identification data of said vehicle from said storing means, called party data from said storing means, and said position in response to said command signal;

wireless telephone communication means including:

emergency communicating means for making a call with said called party data and transmitting said emergency data to a called party indicated by said called party data in response to said command signal; and

ordinary communication means for providing telephone communication with a desired party in response to a calling demand and telephone communication with a calling party in response to a call from said calling party; and

controlling means for operating said emergency communication means when said command signal is exist and operating said ordinary communication means when said command signal is inexistent;

wherein said emergency informing apparatus is mounted to and is part of said vehicle; and

wherein said emergency informing apparatus is configured to enable said wireless telephone communication means to effect ordinary telephone communication without having to disconnect said position detecting means and/or said data generation means.

9. (Amended) An emergency informing system comprising:

a wireless telephone network including a base station; and

emergency informing apparatus for a vehicle including:

position detecting means for detecting a position of said emergency informing apparatus in response to a command signal;

data generation means including storing means for generating emergency data including at least identification data of said vehicle from said storing means,

called party data from said storing means, and said position in response to said command signal; and

telephone communication means including:

emergency communicating means for making a call with said called party data and transmitting emergency data to a called party indicated by said called party data in response to said command signal; and

ordinary communication means for providing telephone communication with a desired party in response to a calling demand and with a calling party in response to a call from said calling party; and

controlling means for operating said emergency communication means when said command signal is exist and operating said ordinary communication means when said command signal is inexistent; and

a predetermined station for receiving and outputting said emergency data from said telephone communication means via said wireless telephone network;

wherein said emergency informing system is mounted to and is part of said vehicle; and

wherein said emergency informing system is configured to enable said telephone communication means to effect ordinary telephone communication without having to disconnect said position detecting means and/or said data generation means.

17. (Amended) An emergency informing apparatus for a vehicle comprising:

a position detecting unit for detecting a position of said emergency informing apparatus;

a data generation unit for generating emergency data including at least identification data of said vehicle, called party data, and said position;

an emergency communication unit for making a wireless communication and transmitting said emergency data to a called party indicated by said called party data when an emergency condition is detected; and

a control unit for operating said emergency communication unit, wherein said control unit operates said emergency communication unit for making an ordinary communication with a desired party when an emergency condition is not detected;

wherein said emergency informing apparatus is mounted to and is part of said vehicle; and

wherein said emergency informing apparatus is configured to effect said ordinary communication without said position detecting unit and/or said data generation unit having to be disconnected.

23. (Amended) An emergency informing system for a vehicle comprising:

a wireless telephone network including a base station; and

an emergency informing apparatus for a vehicle including:

a position detecting unit for detecting a position of said emergency informing apparatus;

a data generation unit for generating emergency data including at least identification data of said vehicle, called party data, and said position;

an emergency communication unit for making a wireless communication and transmitting said emergency data to a called party indicated by said called party data when an emergency condition is detected; and

a control unit for operating said emergency communication unit, wherein said control unit operates said emergency communication unit for making an ordinary communication with a desired party when an emergency condition is not detected; and

a predetermined station for receiving and outputting said emergency data through said wireless telephone network;

wherein said emergency informing system is mounted to and is part of said vehicle; and

wherein said emergency informing system is configured to effect said ordinary communication without said position detecting unit and/or said data generation unit having to be disconnected.

Please add claims 24-26 as follows:

24. (Newly added) An emergency informing apparatus for a vehicle comprising:

a position detecting unit for detecting a position of said emergency informing apparatus;

a data generation unit including a memory for generating emergency data including at least identification data of said vehicle, at least one emergency called party, and the position from said memory;

a communication unit for allowing a user in said vehicle to communicate telephonically with a desired party when there is no emergency and for communicating with said emergency called party and transmitting said emergency data to said emergency called party when there is an emergency;

an operation circuit for operating said communication unit to effect a telephonic link with said desired party when a communication request is input to said operation circuit by at least one of said user and the desired party; and

a control unit for operating said communication unit to disconnect the link to said desired party if said user is communicating with said desired party when an emergency is detected, and to connect to and inform said emergency called party of the emergency.

25. (Newly added) The emergency informing apparatus of claim 24, wherein said emergency apparatus is mounted to said vehicle.

26. (Newly added) The emergency informing apparatus of claim 24, further comprising:

a switch which when activated by said user causes said control unit to operate said communication unit to transmit to said emergency called party at least data indicative of the occurrence of the emergency.

Abstract of the Disclosure

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as follows:

An ordinary telephone communication circuit is provided in addition to the emergency informing circuit in an emergency informing apparatus. In the non-emergency condition, ordinary telephone communication is provided through a wireless communication network. In the emergency condition, the emergency data is transmitted to a predetermined station through the wireless communication network. An interface for transmitting and receiving data is further provided. A data converter for converting data may be provided as a data communication adapter. An automatic [dialling] dialing circuit may be provided. An emergency informing system including the emergency informing apparatus, the wireless network, and a terminal of a predetermined station for receiving the emergency data from the emergency informing apparatus is also disclosed.